

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

This is a perfect example of why the FCC is not working. Last week Howard Stern announced that he will be taking his show to Sirius satellite media. It as you know is a private subscription based media. In that format just as in any pay to view or to listen media the provider, "author" or host has the right to present their view points on any topic. Uncensored.

However, once a public air wave TV media owner broadcasts a program directly reflecting their established privately held political view points, they are in violation of the trust "the people"(U.S. government) bestowed, to provide a service for ALL of the community as stated in the FCC guidelines. It would be different if Sinclair Broadcasting presented a claimer prior to the beginning of the program and the return of the program following each station break that this documentary is a direct political viewpoint of Sinclair Broadcasting. However, it is highly unlikely that they will provide this or be ordered to do so by the FCC. George Butler and Michael Moore used pay to view media access to distribute and present their documentaries. Their private viewpoints. Sinclair's actions are nothing more than a blatant misuse of public airwaves to promote a political viewpoint.

Michael Powells unwillingness to sight the distinction between a program biased in favor of one political view point over another and have it qualify as entertainment or news shows why he is not qualified nor should have been appointed to the position as head of the FCC. The fact that a similar program, months ago, based on Ronald Reagan was cancelled because of its questionable point of view goes to the heart of the problem with media ownership in this country.

The public air waves of this country are PUBLIC air waves granted by "the people" of this county. They are not granted for the personal use to promote political view points. Political view point are paid for by private entities and are stated as such preceding or following the ad presentation. For Sinclair Broadcasting to broadcast a program directly reflecting their political view points on public air waves is in direct violation of Federal campaign laws. They are providing free air time for a advertisement viewpoint disguised as a slanted documentary. It is nothing more than a political contribution to a political party and not registering it with the Federal Campaign Contribution Board.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.